

crime victims has not gone unnoticed. Valley Crime Stoppers has truly made a difference in our Valley, and it will continue to do so for many decades to come.

RECOGNIZING W.T. WOODSON HIGH
SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate W.T. Woodson High School on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Since the school opened its doors in September of 1962, W.T. Woodson High School has been known for being one of the top public high schools, not only in Virginia but also in the nation. The school was named for Mr. Wilbert Tucker Woodson, who served as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools from 1929 to 1961.

Woodson excels in every area including academics, athletics, music, and student clubs and activities. Year after year, Woodson is featured in the top 100 list of U. S. public schools in Newsweek and U. S. News & World Report, and it continually ranks near the top in Fairfax County in the numbers of National Merit Scholars. Academic awards have included grand prizes at the county Science Fair, and numerous scholarships. In 2011, teacher Sam Gee led his team to the first ever win on "It's Academic." A recent study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development found that Woodson's students outperform students in every country and region in the world except Shanghai—China in reading.

In the 1980s, Woodson received The Washington Post Athletic All-Around (all sports) Award. Athletics continues to be a part of the "Woodson Way"—the school has won 177 District Titles, 65 Regional Titles, and 30 State Titles in all areas of athletic competition.

Music has also had a strong tradition at Woodson. The choral music department presents a mammoth production each February known as "Dessert on Broadway." The Cavalier Band has won top honors in national competitions. The orchestra is renowned for its talented musicians. The choral group traveled to Vienna, Austria, and Paris, where students performed at Notre Dame. In 2011, The Chamber Ensemble had the honor of being chosen to perform at the White House. The Cavalier (yearbook), The Cavalcade (newspaper) and the P.A.G.E. Literary Magazine annually take top awards in state and national publications competitions.

Finally, Woodson's vision includes academic excellence for all members of the community. Woodson is now home to a center for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and a center for students with emotional and learning disabilities. The building is one of the most used in Fairfax County, as it houses both Adult Education and Night School.

On a personal note, as the father of a Woodson graduate, I can speak firsthand to the high-quality educational experience and supportive atmosphere cultivated by the Woodson staff and community. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in con-

gratulating W. T. Woodson High School on its 50th Anniversary and in thanking the dedicated educators, administrators, and families for their shared commitment to our youth.

KATRINA CORDOVA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katrina Cordova for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Katrina Cordova is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Katrina Cordova is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katrina Cordova for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO MARY GANT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an exceptional woman, Mary Gant, of La Crescenta, California, a true leader in the La Crescenta-Montrose and La Cañada Flintridge communities.

Mary was active in the Mountain Avenue Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, PTA, in La Crescenta, receiving their Honorary Service Award, and the Rosemont Middle School PTA in La Crescenta, serving as President, where she was honored with the PTA Continuing Service Award.

Well-known throughout the area for her energetic, friendly and positive attitude, Mary has organized many key events for various charitable organizations. She coordinated the silent auction for the La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce's annual meetings, was a Chamber Ambassador and serves on the city's Fiesta Days parade committee every year. A driving force in many Kiwanis Club of La Cañada projects, Mary co-founded the "Wine and Gourmet Food Tasting" event in coordination with the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Endowment Fund, and helped with the Kiwanis Club's Soap Box Derby event registration process for many years. Ms. Gant was also President of the La Cañada

Flintridge Tournament of Roses Association, served on the fund-raising committee for the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA and assists with the YMCA's Annual Prayer Breakfast.

Mary is devoted to her church, the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. She served as a Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, was active in the Youth Program, is on the Personnel Committee and is an ordained Deacon and Elder.

Some of the awards Ms. Gant has received include the Kiwanis Club of La Cañada's Distinguished Service Award, the Gil Smith Award, and the La Cañadan of the Year Award. In addition she received the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year Award and the Les Tupper Community Service Award from the La Cañada Flintridge Coordinating Council.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a truly remarkable woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Mary Gant.

PESONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I was due to board a flight about the time of the Boston Marathon Bombing. The flight I was on was canceled and I took another flight later returning to Washington, DC. I unexpectedly missed rollcall votes 103, 104, and 105.

On rollcall vote 103, passage of H.R. 1162, GAO Improvement Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 104, passage of H.R. 882, The Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2013, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 105, passage of H.R. 249, Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 65TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 2013

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor and privilege to recognize and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the State of Israel's independence. Sixty-five years ago, America became the first nation to recognize Israel, an event that symbolizes the closeness of the relationship between our two countries and our two peoples.

Since its founding in 1948, the Jewish state has faced many challenges, and America has been proud to be at Israel's side to meet these challenges. Our nation's ongoing commitment to Israel is unparalleled and I have been proud to spend my career in Congress working to promote the many economic, political, and cultural and security ties that bind our nations together.

On this day, Israel has much to celebrate and be proud of. Their nation and people have been leaders in the development of groundbreaking and transformative technology affecting millions of people around the globe.